

Ripley County Democrat.

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'ROUNDABOUT THE STATE.

Cleaned from Exchanges—Made by the Shears, the Pencil and the Paste Pot—Some Original, Some Credited, and Some Stolen, but Nearly All Interesting Reading.

A sorority at Missouri University has adopted a French war orphan.

The Tarkio public library now boasts of having more than 8,000 volumes on its shelves.

Art certainly is "on the bum" in Jefferson City. A movement is on foot there to convert a theater into an overall factory.

For once the cigarette smoker is exonerated. The recent fire that for a time threatened the destruction of Cedar City, started from a spark from a pipe.

Among the liabilities listed by a farmer of Merwin, who recently went into bankruptcy, was \$15 for fifteen years' subscription to a paper published at Butler.

H. C. Grove, druggist and manager of the Western Union at Glasgow, has occupied the same chair at the telegraph instrument for the past thirty-five years.

At the April term of circuit court in Douglas county twenty-eight divorce cases were on the docket. And yet they sneer at Douglas county for not having railroads!

James Connors, 100 years old, died at Brookfield one day last week. He had lived there more than sixty years. He assisted in building the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad.

Harry M. Rubey, in a letter received from him from Douglas, Wyo., announces his withdrawal as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for congress in the First district.

The Horne Zoological company of near Independence has bought a herd of buffalo from Frank Rockefeller at Belvidere, Kans., and added the purchase to its collection of animals.

It is getting so up in Mercer county that every time you kill anyone you get into trouble over it. A farmer who shot and killed a neighbor must not only pay a fine of \$100, but spend three months in jail.

Bolivar lost its largest family the other day when the J. L. Farrens moved to Kansas. Mr. Farren purchased nine full-fare tickets, five half-fare tickets, and two members of the family were under the railroad age limit.

Mrs. H. F. Simrall of Liberty has a violin 150 years old. The old fiddle was made in Cremona, Italy, in 1766, and pronounced by experts to be a genuine tyro Strad instrument, supposedly made by Stradivarius, the greatest of all Italian violin makers.

Taking a gambling chance, an Excelsior Springs man bid in at auction a locked suitcase sold to satisfy its departed owner's unpaid board bill. The investor paid \$5 for his investment, which involved one horsehoe, one pair of low shoes, several collars and a suit of underwear.

Jinks Barksdale of Slater is exhibiting to his friends the full dress coat worn by his ancestor, Capt Jonathan Barksdale, at his wedding, Dec. 2, 1784. The coat is of blue broadcloth with gold inlaid buttons, and a close examination shows, inside a pocket, the price tag indicating that the tailor received \$50 for making it.

A Fulton man lost a gun and advertised for its return. He had lent it to someone and forgotten to whom. The day after the advertisement appeared the gun was returned by an apologetic borrower, and before the day was over two other borrowed guns had been offered him, the borrowers having forgotten where they got them.

An estate that has been in the probate court of Carroll county fifty-three years is on the docket for final settlement at the May term of court. The decedent died in 1863. His widow, the administratrix, is now 90 years old and lives in Colorado. She and a son will receive the entire amount of a Civil war claim paid the estate a few weeks ago.

When Mayor Faris at Richmond named a man for city surveyor, about a year ago, the council refused to confirm his choice. The mayor named no one else, so the town was lacking one officer. Recently a compromise was effected and the mayor sent over another name. The nominee was confirmed by the council, but declined the office.

Fayette feels the distinction of having once been the home of a former wife of the bandit, Villa. When a resident of Howard county she was the wife of a minister, who later died at Moberly. The widow then may be said to have begun a matrimonial career, she having twice married before she became the bandit's bride, only to be put aside later for a younger and prettier woman.

In the death of James Shoecraft, Sr., Tarkio has lost one of its earliest settlers and its oldest citizens. Forty six years ago, with his friend, George Reed, he came to Atchison county and located at York on uncultivated prairie. Prairie chickens were yet abundant and deer were common, while at night the howl of wolves could frequently be heard. It was indeed a wild country into which he came almost a half a century ago.

Boys being "bound out" as apprentices are far from the usual order these days, but a document of such nature was filed in Linn county recently. By the terms of the instrument the parents of a boy, now little more than 3 years old, apprentice him to a farmer who agrees to give his ward a thorough course in the science of agriculture and when he has reached maturity to supply him with a Bible, two \$25 suits of clothes, a horse, bridle and saddle.

This is his experience with the self-starting scissors and the single cylinder paste pot of the Hartsburg Truth does not qualify him to fool around with motor cars is the conclusion reached by F. P. Griffin, editor of the Hartsburg Truth. Mr. Griffin attempted to fill the tank of a neighbor's car with gasoline. In his self-imposed task he spilled gasoline on his clothing and then quite inadvertently set himself afire. Prompt action alone saved him from serious injuries, and as he strolled homeward in a borrowed horse blanket he was heard to murmur, "Never again."

For some time past, several business men at Noyes have been planning to establish there a factory for making gun stocks. It is now reported that a big foreign contract has been closed and that work will begin on the factory in a few weeks.

Through the efforts of Col. A. A. Hulett of the Webb City commercial club, 80,000 bass have been put in Center creek near there in the last two years. Ten thousand baby trout will be distributed in streams near Webb City within the next few days.

The unexpected happened at Kirksville when thieves stole from the site of the Chi Delta fraternity house an ice box weighing, according to the Express, as much as a piano. The theft was in the night and the miscreants used a wagon to remove their loot.

A Schuyler county man is in a quandary. Remembering two dreams he had the other night, he consulted a dream book, for their interpretation. One of the dreams meant that the dreamer would be wed within six months. The other dream was a warning that his death was near at hand.

At Montgomery City, the recently elected city marshal, city collector and an alderman will lose their victory and cannot be sworn into office, because they were delinquent on the tax books when elected. The city marshal-elect of Fulton also cannot qualify because of a like delinquency.

When a mysterious stranger, "with a business like appearance," came snooping about Drury college headquarters at Springfield, the other day, wise ones saw in the incident a move on the part of Joplin to alienate the effectuations of the institution and have it moved to "the city that jack built."

Earl McClellan exhibited eight young wolves in the Grant City Times office last Wednesday night, which he had caught near his home. The mother wolf had made her nest under the roots of a tree on the side of a branch, and it took but little digging to find the young ones. Twelve young wolves were recently caught on the John Boedecker farm near Parnell.

A speed record in dealing out justice was made by Judge E. S. Gantt at his first term of court held in Warren county. A man who at 11 o'clock in the morning stole \$11 was arrested at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and two hours later was under a two-year sentence for the offense. Judge Gantt was appointed to the bench to fill the unexpired term of the late Judge James D. Barnett of the Eleventh circuit.

When the O. K. conductor at Pattonburg investigated a car loaded with household goods, etc., he made a gruesome discovery. The body of the occupant of the car was found hanging to the roof, a piece of baling wire with a loop in the end in which he had placed his neck having been used to strangle himself to death. The indications were that he had been dead about twelve hours. Investigation of his papers showed that his name was C. R. Renfrow and that he was enroute from Lipton, Wyoming, to Brimmon, Mo. He was about 40 years of age. The car was taken up by the O. K. road from the Burlington railroad at Osborne. The car contained household goods, farming implements and several head of live stock.

Fight Fire Blight Now.

Fire blight has appeared in the orchards this spring and every affected twig or branch should be removed before the disease has a chance to spread. During the last few years this disease has done a great deal of damage in pear and apple orchards and the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station finds it appearing again this spring. Its effects are not usually observed by the orchardist until May or June, when many of the fruit clusters and young twigs begin to die suddenly as if they had been scorched by fire. The earlier symptoms which should have warned him to cut back the diseased parts at once are the flow of a gumlike or even a thin saplike liquid from the bark, or the appearance of beads of honey-like material on the newly formed apples. This material may spread like a soft varnish, covering the fruits instead of remaining in beads.

The only known means of checking blight is to cut and burn all the affected parts before the disease is carried to the rest of the orchard by bees and other insects, or has a chance to spread through the twigs themselves. The pruning tools may carry the germs if not carefully disinfected by either dipping them into a 1 to 1000 solution of corrosive sublimate, or wiping them with a rag or sponge which has been dampened with such a solution carried in a small bottle for this purpose. Corrosive sublimate—also called bichloride of mercury—may be purchased at any drug store in small bottles containing about twenty-five tablets apiece with directions for dissolving these tablets and making solutions of any desired strength.

Pruning tools should be disinfected after pruning each tree so that the disease will not be carried from tree to tree, and should be disinfected still oftener than this to avoid carrying the disease from one part to another of the same tree, as the pruner finds that he is cutting through diseased wood.

The blight usually passes the winter in pear trees, but may live through in Jonathan, Ingram, Yellow Transparent, and similar apple trees.

Orchards affected by blight last year should be very carefully watched now, and pear trees which show blight scars or cankers should be examined first of all. Blisters may form under the bark, then burst after the trees have begun to grow. From these places there flows the honey-like liquid which contains the bacterial germs of blight, which bees and other insects are likely to carry from tree to tree. The bees carry these germs to the flower clusters of pears and apples and the newly formed fruits may have the beaded or varnished appearance which indicates that the spurs on which they are growing should be cut and burned at once.

The grower should not wait for the blighted parts to die and turn brown or black. To keep the blight from spreading through the whole orchard it is necessary to find and cut out the few early infections here and there. These early infections may be located by observing fruit clusters where the stems of the fruit look slightly discolored and show the sticky exudations.—J. C. Whitten, Missouri College of Agriculture.

Up in Madison county a woman set under hens 115 eggs from which 111 chickens were hatched.

Growing Chicks Need Lots Of Good Food.

Growing chicks require an abundance of food which contains muscle and bone building material. Other things being equal, failure to grow can be attributed to an insufficient food supply, a lack of muscle making food or too little mineral matter such as bone meal.

A chick grows at an enormous rate. At the University of Missouri it was found that a chick weighed at 14 weeks just sixteen times what it did when hatched. If an infant grew as fast, a baby weighing seven pounds at birth would weigh 112 pounds when 14 weeks old. This shows that chicks should be fed liberally and emphasizes the importance of selecting the right kind of food. Because of the remainder of the yoke sack being drawn into the body at hatching, liberal feeding during this time would retard the absorption of this yoke sack and might cause trouble. When the chick is 48 hours old a few grains of sharp, fine sand should be fed. The sand stimulates the digestive organs and gets them in working order.

The chicks food should consist of cracked grains such as corn, wheat and steel-cut oats, fed in combination with some ground food like bread crumbs, corn bread or rolled oats. At the University the ration for the first week consists of "chick food" fed three times a day and rolled oats the other two. Sour milk is also fed. The acid in the milk is harmful to some disease germs and the milk furnishes muscle forming food. Water with the chill removed is fed in a fountain so constructed that the chicks cannot get wet. After the first week a mixture of bran, shorts and corn meal is substituted for the rolled oats. When milk is not fed fifteen pounds of fine beef scrap and one part of bone meal should be added to every 100 pounds of the mixture. The bone meal will prevent leg weakness. If the chicks are confined, finely cut green grass, alfalfa leaves, onions, etc., will keep the bowels loose and the chick healthy.

Gradually the finer grains can be replaced by coarser. The dry mash can remain as above. All the feed can be placed in hoppers where the chicks may help themselves. Fine grit should always be available. When the chicks have passed the danger point a wet mash daily at about 4 p. m. will induce them to eat more and will result in a more rapid growth. Eggs can be fed raw by stirring one in some dry feed and feeding this mixture to about sixty chicks. At all times the food must be clean and free from mustiness or digestive troubles are sure to result. The keeping of the quarters clean and sweet is equally important.

As result of a stubborn determination of Emmett Ball, postmaster at Seibert, not to affix and cancel a 50-cent stamp, the postoffice at Seibert, Dade county, was erased from the postal map March 31. Notice that the office was discontinued was received from the postoffice department at offices in that district. The cause of the row was the receipt by Ball of his bond with a request that it be renewed. Ball renewed the bond without the stamp. It was sent back and forth many times, but each time Ball refused to comply with the federal regulations for his job, and the government closed the office.

VALUE OF FARM LANDS GOES UP

Increases Are General Throughout Country, Says Federal Bureau.

ABOUT \$2 PER ACRE PER YEAR

Estimates Based Upon Reports From Crop Reporters Show Few Exceptions in General Upward Trend in Rural Districts.

Washington.—The value of farm lands of the United States, without improvements, is estimated at \$45.55 per acre, as compared with \$40.85 a year ago, \$40.31 two years ago, \$38.10 three years ago, and \$36.25 four years ago. The census reported the value of farm lands in 1910 as \$23.40, and in 1900 as \$15.57 per acre.

In recent years the value of farm lands has been increasing at the rate of about 5 per cent a year, or approximately \$2 per acre per year. The exceptional increase of the past year may be explained partly by the reaction in the Southern cotton states following a temporary depression last year, and partly by the stimulus given by the war to prices, particularly of grain.

Increases have been general throughout the United States, the only noteworthy exceptions being orchard lands and some irrigated lands in the Northwest, which apparently had been overvalued before.

The percentage increases in value of farm lands in the past year by sections of the United States are: North Atlantic states, 10 per cent; eastern part of north central states, 9 per cent; western part of north central states, 13 per cent; South Atlantic states, 13 per cent; south central states, 11 per cent; far Western states, 11 per cent; entire United States, 11.5 per cent.

The percentage increases in farm land values in four years, that is, since 1912 are: North Atlantic states, 17 per cent; eastern part of north central states, 20 per cent; western part of north central states, 23 per cent; South Atlantic states, 23 per cent; south central states, 25 per cent; far Western states, 24 per cent; entire United States, 25.7 per cent.

These estimates are based upon reports from crop reporters of the bureau of crop estimates.

Not All Dead.

Paterson, N. J.—To pay a Willard-Moran fight bet Larry O'Brien must propel a peanut one mile with a toothpick.

A Shelby county man had been meditating for some time, trying to get up courage enough to go to a dentist and have five troublesome teeth extracted. He was knocked down by a motor car the other day and all five teeth were knocked out. His avowed intention of having the teeth pulled lessens his chances for getting damages for the accident.

Run over by a passenger train, 12-year-old Lawrence McKinney of Brookfield owes his life to presence of mind; for when caught on the Yellow creek bridge he threw himself between the rails and stayed there until the train passed. A rod under one of the cars tore the boy's sweater but he was uninjured save for a nervous shock, from which he is recovering.

Thursday morning, shortly after 12 o'clock, two strangers entered the office at the Laclede depot, and drawing pistols, ordered the night operator and a friend with him to hold up their hands. The request was complied with, and the robbers took about \$14 of company money from the cash drawer. Then, marching the operator and his companion to a field near the depot, the robbers made another search of their victims and took the last 30 cents the operator had after which the victims were told to run. Again they obeyed orders, and that was the last they saw of the men with the guns.